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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUPREME COURT ANNOUNCES INTERIM APPOINTMENT TO APPELLATE COURT

SPRINGFIELD – The Supreme Court of Illinois announced Wednesday the reappointment of Judge Clyde L. Kuehn to the Appellate Court of the 5th Judicial District to fill on a short-term basis the vacancy created by the departing Gordon S. Maag.

Judge Kuehn had been appointed to the Appellate Court to fill the vacancy created when Justice Philip J. Rarick was appointed to the Illinois Supreme Court in September 2002. Judge Kuehn's initial appointment terminates on December 5, 2004. His re-appointment takes effect December 6, 2004 and terminates July 7, 2005.

Justice Rarick, who is retiring from the Supreme Court effective December 5, recommended the re-appointment of Judge Kuehn after conferring with Circuit Court Judge Lloyd Karmeier.

The Illinois Constitution requires the Supreme Court to fill judicial vacancies by appointment until they can be filled by election. It is customary that a Justice in whose district the vacancy exists makes a recommendation to the full Court.

"I made the recommendation after Judge Karmeier and I conferred on the matter," said Justice Rarick. "Judge Karmeier has said he intends to establish a judicial evaluation committee to advise him on filling judicial vacancies. The appointment of Judge Kuehn for an interim duration will allow him the time to assemble his committee while preserving the status quo of the Appellate Court and enabling its work to go forward."

Judge Karmeier, currently a Circuit Court judge in Nashville, was elected to the Supreme Court earlier this month and will be sworn in as Justice of the Supreme Court on December 6. He has asked Justice Rarick to administer the oath. Judge Karmeier's opponent was Judge Maag, who also failed to win retention, creating the Appellate Court vacancy.

After his committee is established, Judge Karmeier intends to recommend to the Supreme Court a new appointee to succeed Judge Kuehn on the Appellate Court. That appointment likely will run until December 2006.

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“The interim appointment of Judge Kuehn will provide continuity on the Appellate Court and give me a chance to give careful consideration and implement the process I will use to recommend the filling of judicial vacancies in the Fifth District,” Judge Karmeier said. “It will also provide me the time to make a deliberate, considered and efficient transition to the very important work of the Supreme Court.”

Judge Kuehn, a native of Belleville, received his B.A. and law degree from the University of Illinois and graduated at the top of his law school class at the University of Kentucky. He was a prosecutor in St. Clair, Monroe and Perry counties and was the St. Clair County state’s attorney from 1976 to 1980. He engaged in the private practice of law from 1980 to 1994, and also served as public defender for St. Clair County.

He was appointed a Circuit Court judge in 1994, and has sat on the Appellate Court since he was first assigned to it in 1995.

Judge Karmeier is a native of Okawville, Illinois. He received a bachelor of science in commerce and law degree and his *Juris Doctor* degree from the University of Illinois. He has served as a law clerk on the Illinois Supreme Court and the U.S. District Court, and was also admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court.

He was engaged in private practice as an associate and as a partner in the firm of Hohlt, House, DeMoss & Johnson in Nashville, and also was elected and served from 1968 to 1972 as Washington County state’s attorney.

He has been a Circuit Court judge in Washington County since 1986, and was rated “highly qualified” for the Supreme Court by the Illinois State Bar Association. Judge Karmeier has been active in numerous community and bar associations, and active in his church.

He and his wife, Mary, have lived in Nashville since 1965; and are the parents of two adult daughters and five grandchildren.